

REMARKS

The final Office action dated September 20, 2004, has been carefully considered. Independent claim 1 is amended herein. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Approval and entry of the above amendment, and issuance of a Notice Of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection because the shapes disclosed in the present application are “polygons.” However, for the sake of expediency, in view of the finality of the Office action, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the elevated sections are “shapes,” as recited in the originally-filed claims. Entry of the amendment to claim 1 and allowance of claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over United States patent No. 6,375,373 to Izushima (“Izushima”).

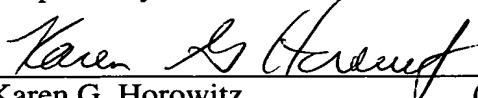
Claim 1 recites a “textured outer surface” from which a plurality of elevated sections extend. Such textured outer surface is important, as described, for instance, in paragraph 8 of the originally-filed specification, to inhibit build-up of dirt or grime in the gaps between the raised shapes. Izushima does not show or suggest such a textured outer surface. In order to clarify the significance of the “textured outer surface” recited in claim 1, claim 1 is amended herein to recite that the elevated sections are “intercalated shapes sufficiently spaced apart to permit the textured nature of said outer surface to function to inhibit build-up of dirt and grime in the sunken gaps between said spaced apart shapes.” Support for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 2, paragraph 8, of the originally-filed specification. It is respectfully submitted that because Izushima does not show or suggest a textured outer surface, Izushima also does not show or suggest spacing apart elevated sections extending from a textured outer surface and “sufficiently spaced apart to permit the textured nature of said outer surface to function to inhibit build-up dirt and grime in the sunken gaps between said spaced apart shapes,” as recited in claim 1, as amended herein. Accordingly, entry of the amendment to claim 1 and allowance of claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom are respectfully requested.

For the above reasons, the present application, as amended herein, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Approval and entry of the above amendment and remarks and issuance of a Notice Of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner not agree that all claims are allowable or have any further issues to be resolved, then a personal or telephone interview with the undersigned is respectfully requested to resolve any remaining issues and to accelerate allowance of the present application.

No fee is believed to be due for this amendment. Should any fee be required, please charge such fee to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

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Respectfully submitted,

 35,199
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